

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel Claims 1-15 without prejudice.

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A method of finding and immobilizing a workpiece in its free state despite within-tolerance variations in size or location of said workpiece so as to establish a net datum position of said workpiece to enable net datum features to be fabricated net to a fixture and in design-intent position on said workpiece, said method comprising the steps of:

mounting said workpiece in its free state atop said fixture;

advancing an opposed pair of pads from a retracted position to an advanced position in contact with opposite portions of said workpiece without measurably displacing said workpiece despite said tolerance variations, such that said opposite portions of said workpiece are between said opposed pair of pads; and

locking said opposed pair of pads in said advanced position against said opposite portions of said workpiece so as to immobilize said workpiece in said free state.

17. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

unlocking said opposed pair of pads; and

retracting said opposed pair of pads from said advanced position to said retracted position such that said workpiece may be withdrawn from said fixture.